MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

FARM ADVISER

News Notes from the Field of the Extension Service, Released for Publication Every Two Weeks
From the Office of the Director of Extension.

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NOTICE

The purpose of the Farm Adviser is to furnish a convenient and timely medium for supplying news notes regarding the work of the Agricultural College, Experiment Station, and Extension Service, in co-operation with the U. S. Department of Agriculture to the local press and to county demonstration agents with a view to keeping them and the people throughout the State informed of the activities of these agricultural agencies in their behalf. All requests for copies of this sheet should be directed to Reuben Brigham, In Charge of Publications, The Extension Service, College Park, Maryland.

SOMMERSET COUNTY GETS IN LINE FOR ITS SHARE OF THE DEMONSTRATION SERVICE

College Park, Md., Dec. 22.

A public meeting of farmers was held at the Court House, Princess Anne, Somerset county, December 18, 1914, to consider the matter of securing a county agent for Somerset. Director T. B. Symons, of the Extension Service, addressed the meeting and pointed out the desire of the service to have an efficient County Agent in every county of the state. He showed the many advantages to the county in having a central agency through which agricultural work could be conducted, and that it was the policy of the Extension Service to conduct all demonstration and extension work in a county through and in consultation with the county agent.

The U. S. Government, through the Extension Service of the Agricultural College, will pay half the salary of county agents in any county.

Resolutions were adopted and a committee appointed to urge the County Commissioners to appropriate one thousand dollars for the agent and work. Somerset County has made much progress during recent years, and in securing a county agent the farmers of the county are providing for further strides in agricultural development.

What county will be next to establish this important work?

COUNTY AGENT WATHEN REPORTS MARKED PROGRESS IN ST. MARY'S.

College Park, Md., Dec. 23.

The report of County Agent G. F. Wathen, Jr., received at Extension headquarters today indicates marked progress in St. Mary's County in demonstration work for the past year, despite the prolonged drouth, which extended in that section from the middle of April last well into November, with not enough rain at any time to put ground into good plowing condition. Agent Wathen has consistently advised the storing of humus in the soil, deep plowing, and level and frequent cultivation as a preventative of damage from drought conditions. Wherever such methods were practiced, the crop was invariably better, the average yield on fifty demonstration plots of corn being 42 bushels per acre.

During the year past, Agent Wathen has had under his direction 75 demonstration fields and has visited over a thousand farmers in his terriory. He estimates that over two thousand acres of agricultural land have been improved by following the directions received through him from the Demonstration Service. He has been quite successful as well in organizing the farmers in his sections into clubs, modeled after those that ave been in existence in the Sandy Spring neighborhood, Montgomery County, for the past fifty years. Four such clubs have been organized and have a membership of 250 members, having held so far four joint meetings with a total attendance of five hundred farmers.

In the buying of farm supplies, there have been bought through the advice of Agent Wathen some 700 tons of lime at a saving of $1 per ton, 500 tons of fertilizer at a saving of $3 per ton, 200 bushels of clover seed at a saving of $1 a bushel, 100 bushels of cow peas at a saving of $1 a bushel, and 100 bushels of grass seed at 50 cents a bushel saving. In addition to the foregoing, Agent Wathen assisted in the conduct of a strictly agricultural products fair in the county, both educational and attractive, and at which demonstrations in labor saving methods were conducted.

As a result of these activities, the feeling of farmers in St. Mary's is most favorable toward the continuation of county demonstration work and it will receive their hearty support in the extension of its field of work in that county.

FRUIT GROWERS' ASSOCIATION HOLDS SUCCESSFUL MEETING IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY.

College Park, Md., Dec. 24.

Members of the Extension Service recently attended a most interesting meeting of the Sandy Spring Fruit Growers' Association held at the home of its secretary, S. P. Thomas of Sandy Spring, Montgomery County. This association has plantings of thirteen thousand trees, and the combined exhibitors of the association won at the Maryland Week Show over $125 in prizes on their exhibition of Stayman Winesaps.

Following an election of officers

for the coming year, the Association, which consists of some twenty members, took up the topics assigned by its Executive Committee for discussion and action. As a result, special committees were appointed to look into the proposition of securing a cheaper supply of barrel and boxing material than is now available to growers in that community, and to prepare for a joint display exhibit of their fruit at the Maryland Week Show next year.

An interesting feature of the meeting was a report on the fruit conditions in the neighborhood for the year past by Henry Stabler, formerly a student at the Maryland Agricultural College, who is employed in the neighborhood by members of the Association in superintending the pruning, spraying, and general care of their orchards and in the packing of their fruit for market. He suggested that much valuable information can be secured in the form of bulletins from the Maryland Experiment Station and the Department of Agriculture, but that it is of little use unless some study is made to have it fit local problems and conditions. He reported the presence of apple blossom blight due to infection from Kieffer pear trees as unusually serious and recommended the removal of all Kieffers in or near bearing orchards, at least to a distance of 200 yards.

San Jose scale and the codling moth are practically under perfect control in this section owing to the educational and co-operative campaign of members of the Association for their eradication. The Association adjourned to hold a public night session at the local high school, which was addressed by Messrs. S. B. Shaw and C. E. Temple of the Extension Service, and Mr. C. T. Moore, of the Office of Markets. County agents in fruit growing sections would do well to organize such associations, as they prove most valuable in getting farmers together for the solving of local growing and marketing problems.

RECOMMENDS BREEDING COWS TO FRESHEN IN FALL

College Park, Md., Dec., 21.

Mr. G. E. Wolcott of the Extension Service is urging dairymen in the State to breed their cows to come fresh in the fall. In his addresses to local dairymen's associations he states."

" Cows that are bred to freshen in the fall will produce a larger annual yield of milk than those bred to freshen at other seasons. A cow that drops her calf in October is generally placed in the stable and fed the regular winter ration until pastures are ready the next summer. The fresh grasses will stimulate her producing capacity at a time in the lactation period when a less palatable feed would result in a marked decrease in production. Again, the rush of summer work is over when the cows begin to freshen, and more care is given to their feeding and comfort, which is conducive to a large flow of milk.

The period of dry pastures and flies, accompanied by hot days and nights have a tendancy to decrease the flow of milk in the case of cows bred to freshen in the spring. During this dry period the farm work requires so much attention that the farmer does not realize that his cows are not receiving enough feed to keep up their flow of milk. Once the flow is allowed to decrease, it cannot be brought back to the former production during that lactation period. There is every reason for allowing the cow to take her rest when the weather conditions are not conducive to high production, and the general farm work is pressing.

Cows that freshen in the fall make the larger proportion of their yield when prices are high.

Calves that are dropped in the fall are ready to make good use of the pasture the next summer.

By keeping the bull in a paddock, cows can be bred to freshen at any desired period.

COUNTY AGENT PROVES; HELPFUL IN IMPROVING DAIRYING CONDITIONS

College Park, Md., Dec. 20.

In order to improve sanitary conditions in the dairies supplying Cumberland with milk and butter, its Health Officer induced the Chamber of Commerce to hold a milk testing contest, under Government Supervision ;

County Agent, John J. McGill, Jr., seeing a chance to be of service to the dairymen by calling attention to the fact that, though there are 400 men selling milk to the one city of Cumberland, there are not one dozen registered Holstein cattle in Allegany County, asked, if possible, that steps be taken to assist the dairymen in securing improved stock. By way of seconding the motion, a registered Holstein calf was given as a prize to the winner of the milk contest, and then a resolution was adopted by the Board of Directors, authorizing the Secretary to put into effect the following plan.

That a sum of money amounting to about $3,000 be secured from the local banks with which to buy a car load of young registered Holstein breeding stock. This stock to be obtained from the best source, and purchased as a whole, if possible, and handled in one consignment, thereby reducing cost. Orders for the whole car having been taken in advance, so that upon arrival, each dairyman would get what he ordered and at exactly cost. If he can pay cash all risht, if not, a satisfactory note is given to the banks, which, in order to favor this project, have consented to loan the necessary money for six or twelve months, at a very small rate of interest, not more than 2 per cent.

Although this plan has only been announced a few days orders for nine head have already come in without special solicitation. There is every prospect that the plan will be most successful, though it is heing held up just now by the foot and mouth disease.